

Message Text

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ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /026 W

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P 210820Z MAY 75

FM AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 2629

S E C R E T SINGAPORE 2166

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: XGDS-3

TAGS: MILI, MASS, SN

SUBJECT: GOS REQUEST FOR MAP

REF: SINGAPORE 2164, 2165

FOLLOWING IS TEXT OF AIDE-MEMOIRE REQUESTING THAT TRAINING OF
SAF PERSONNEL BE ASSISTED UNDER MAP WHICH WAS REPORTED REFTEL.

QUOTE

TRAINING OF SINGAPORE ARMED FORCES IN THE UNITED STATES

SINCE 1967, 239 SINGAPORE ARMED FORCES PERSONNEL HAVE UNDERGONE
MILITARY TRAINING IN THE UNITED STATES. THE TOTAL COST OF THIS
TRAINING AMOUNTS TO \$2.9 MILLION. THE ANNUAL AMOUNTS IN THE
LAST FIVE YEARS WERE:-

AMOUNTS (\$)

1970	349,693.88
1971	1,168,392.39
1972	1,072,973.33
1973	172,155.20
1974	183,392.58

TOTAL	\$2,946,607.38
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THE ABOVE EXCLUDES THE A-4S TRAINING PROGRAMME WHICH TOTALS
\$6.9 MILLION TO DATE.

THE TRAINING OF SINGAPORE ARMED FORCES PERSONNEL IN THE

UNITED STATES PRESENTLY COMES UNDER THE UNITED STATES FOREIGN MILITARY SALES PROGRAMME (FMSP) UNDER WHICH THE UNITED STATES ALLOCATES PLACES AT TRAINING INSTITUTIONS FOR SINGAPORE ARMED FORCES PERSONNEL WITH TUITION FEES, MAINTENANCE ALLOWANCE AND TRANSPORTATION EXPENSES BEING BORNE WHOLLY BY THE SINGAPORE GOVERNMENT. OUR OFFICERS WHO HAVE TRAINED IN THE UNITED STATES HAVE RAISED THE OBSERVATION THAT THE MAJORITY OF ASIAN COUNTRIES, E.G. PAKISTAN, SOUTH KOREA, SOUTH VIETNAM, TAIWAN, LAOS, CAMBODIA, INDONESIA, THAILAND, PHILIPPINES AND MALAYSIA SEND THEIR STUDENTS TO THE UNITED STATES FOR TRAINING UNDER THE UNITED STATES MILITARY ASSISTANCE PROGRAMME (MAP). UNDER THIS PROGRAMME, THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT BEARS THE COST OF TUITION AND COURSE FEES, MAINTENANCE ALLOWANCE AND RETURN FLIGHTS OF STUDENTS. IN THE CASE OF MALAYSIA, \$432,500 WAS PROVIDED IN DEFENCE ASSISTANCE FOR TRAINING OF MALAYSIAN ARMED FORCES PERSONNEL FOR 1974. SINGAPORE IS NOW THE ONLY SOUTHEAST ASIAN COUNTRY NOT INCLUDED UNDER THE UNITED STATES MILITARY ASSISTANCE PROGRAMME.

IN OCTOBER 1974, MINISTRY OF DEFENCE, SINGAPORE, ENQUIRED THROUGH THE UNITED STATES EMBASSY IN SINGAPORE ABOUT THE POSSIBILITY OF A WAIVER OF TUITION FEES FOR SINGAPORE ARMED FORCES PERSONNEL ATTENDING UNITED STATES MILITARY COURSES, EXCLUDING THE A4S TRAINING PROGRAMME. HGHE RESPONSE WAS DISCOURAGING.

WE NOW REQUEST THAT THE TRAINING OF SINGAPORE ARMED FORCES PERSONNEL BE ASSISTED WHOLLY UNDER THE UNITED STATES MILITARY ASSISTANCE PROGRAMME AS PRESENTLY APPLIED TO OTHER ASIAN COUNTRIES, OTHER THAN THE A4S TRAINING PROGRAMME.

29 APRIL 1975 UNQUOTE
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